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2280 HV Rijswijk (ZH)  
☎ (070) 3 40 20 40  
TX 31651 epo nl  
FAX (070) 3 40 30 16

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La Haye  
Division de la  
recherche

Marsh, Roy David  
Hoffmann Eitle,  
Patent- und Rechtsanwälte,  
Arabellastrasse 4  
81925 München  
ALLEMAGNE

EINGEGANGEN

02. Jan. 1998 C2

HOFFMANN EITLE & PARTNER  
PATENTANWÄLTE RECHEN

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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire

United States Surgical Corporation

## COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☒ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☐ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract:

1

## REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.8)
Y	US 5 234 447 A (KASTER) * figures 1,8,18 * ---	1-6,8,9	A61B17/11 A61B17/128
Y	US 4 586 503 A (KIRSCH) * column 1, line 37 - column 2, line 17; figure 3 * ---	1-6,8,9	
A	WO 95 35065 A (HEARTPORT) * page 8, last paragraph - page 9, paragraph 2; figures 17,18 * ---	1-6,8,9	
A	WO 95 17127 A (OTICON) * figures 4,7,5,11 * ---	1,2,4,8	
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Place of search  THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search  18 December 1997	Examiner  Barton, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

# ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 97 11 2634

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
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